

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-11, 13-17, 19-20 and 28-34 are pending in the instant application. Claims 31, 33 and 34 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. This amendment is fully supported throughout the application, especially in the drawings. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

In view of claim 34 being amended to incorporate the features of claim 31, objection to claim 34 is believed overcome.

With respect to independent claims 6 and 31, it appears to the Applicants that the Examiner may perhaps be misinterpreting certain aspects of the claims. For example, in the paragraph bridging page 3 and page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner improperly alleges that an *outer surface section* which is inclined relative to the axial direction as claimed in claims 6 and 31 is disclosed by Bernnett (U.S. Patent No. 3,444,917). On the contrary, the surface S, which the Examiner alleges to read on the claimed outer surface, as shown in the Exhibit D (annotated version of Fig. 1 of Bernnett), is parallel to an axial direction Y. See also Fig. 2 of Bernnett where it is disclosed that surface S is perpendicular to the cross sectional plane, like axial direction Y.

Further, the Examiner, at page 4, lines 7-8 of the Office Action, improperly alleges that the Bernnett reference discloses that the spacing between the first and second boundary line decreases as the second boundary line extends from the third point toward the first point. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Exhibit D, from which it is apparent that the spacing d between the first boundary line A and the second boundary line B remains constant because the first boundary line A and the second boundary line B are parallel to each other.

Therefore, the Brennett reference fails disclose the claimed invention. At least for the above reasons, Applicants submit that even if there was adequate motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the applied references, which Applicants contend to the contrary, the combined references would fail to disclose all features of the independent claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 6 and 31 is respectfully requested.

Further, independent claim 34 also includes the above discussed features of claims 6 and 31 and hence is believed patentable over the applied art of record at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to claims 6 and 31.

Further, dependent claims 7-11, 13-17, 19, 20, 28-30 and 32-33 are either directly or indirectly dependent from one of the claims 6 and 31 and hence believed patentable over the applied art of record at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to independent claims 6 and 31.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

**The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.**

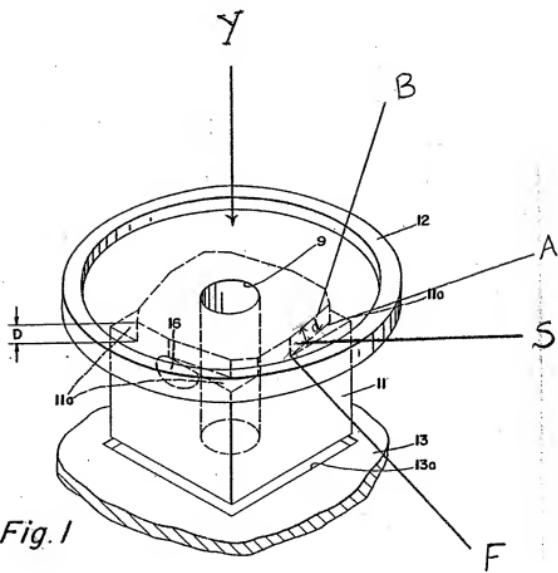
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

**LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP**

  
Benjamin J. Hauptman  
Registration No. 29,310

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/klb  
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile  
**Date: February 20, 2007**



**Exhibit D**